

# California Field Crop Review



Frequency: Monthly  
Released: August 14, 1997

(USPS 598-270)  
VOL. 18 NO. 8



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Field Crop Production .....	1 & 2
Dry Bean Acreage .....	2
Farm Prices .....	3
Number of Farms .....	4

## U.S. WHEAT AND SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

All U.S. wheat production is placed at 75.9 million tons, up 4 percent from the last forecast and 11 percent more than in 1996. The U.S. yield is now forecast at 1.20 tons per acre, up 4 percent from last month to a new record high. Soybean production is forecast at a record 2.74 billion bushels, up 15 percent from 1996 and 9 percent above the 1994 record year. The yield is forecast at 39.3 bushels per acre, 1.7 bushels above last year, but 2.1 bushels below the record yield in 1994. Area for harvest is estimated at 69.8 million acres.

## CALIFORNIA CROP PRODUCTION

Production of corn, cotton, dry beans, hay, oats, rice, and sugar beets is expected to increase from the previous year's levels. Yield increases are anticipated for corn, cotton, hay other than alfalfa, oats, rice, and winter wheat. Upland cotton acreage is down 12 percent from last year, but expected yield is up 5 percent. American-Pima cotton acreage is up 12 percent, and projected yield is up 7 percent.

## FIELD CROPS: ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES, 1996-97

Crop	Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production		
	1996	Forecast 1997	Unit	1996	Forecast 1997	Unit	1996	Forecast 1997
	-- 1,000 Acres --						-- Thousands --	
CALIFORNIA								
Wheat, Winter <u>a</u> /	550.0	380.0	Tons	2.07	2.25	Tons	1,138.5	855.0
Wheat, Durum <u>a</u> /	138.0	130.0	Tons	3.00	2.85	Tons	414.0	370.5
Oats	30.0	30.0	Tons	1.20	1.28	Tons	36.0	38.4
Barley	220.0	180.0	Tons	1.44	1.56	Tons	316.8	280.8
Corn for Grain	220.0	260.0	Tons	4.48	4.76	Tons	985.6	1,237.6
Rice, All	500.0	513.0	Cwt.	74.90	82.00	Cwt.	37,459.0	42,066.0
Long	5.0	6.0	Cwt.	72.00	<u>b</u> /	Cwt.	360.0	<u>b</u> /
Medium	482.0	489.0	Cwt.	75.00	<u>b</u> /	Cwt.	36,150.0	<u>b</u> /
Short	13.0	18.0	Cwt.	73.00	<u>b</u> /	Cwt.	949.0	<u>b</u> /
Cotton, Upland <u>c</u> /	995.0	875.0	Lbs.	1,153.00	1,207.00	Bales	2,390.0	2,200.0
Cotton, American-Pima <u>c</u> /	164.0	184.0	Lbs.	1,098.00	1,174.00	Bales	375.0	450.0
Sugar Beets	82.0	107.0	Tons	29.50	29.50	Tons	2,419.0	3,157.0
Beans, All Dry <u>d</u> /	123.0	125.0	Cwt.	19.00	20.00	Cwt.	2,337.0	2,500.0
Hay, All	1,450.0	1,490.0	Tons	5.52	5.57	Tons	8,008.0	8,298.0
Alfalfa Hay	940.0	970.0	Tons	7.00	7.00	Tons	6,580.0	6,790.0
Other Hay	510.0	520.0	Tons	2.80	2.90	Tons	1,428.0	1,508.0
UNITED STATES								
Wheat, Winter <u>a</u> /	39,709.0	41,583.0	Tons	1.12	1.34	Tons	44,341.4	55,664.2
Wheat, Durum <u>a</u> /	3,546.0	3,208.0	Tons	0.98	0.84	Tons	3,475.2	2,704.7
Oats	2,687.0	3,222.0	Tons	0.92	0.93	Tons	2,483.6	2,994.0
Barley	6,787.0	6,397.0	Tons	1.40	1.43	Tons	9,524.4	9,120.4
Corn for Grain	73,147.0	74,049.0	Tons	3.56	3.51	Tons	260,216.2	259,724.4
Rice, All	2,799.0	3,037.0	Cwt.	61.21	59.94	Cwt.	171,321.0	182,034.0
Long <u>e</u> /	1,964.0	2,259.0	Cwt.	57.77	<u>b</u> /	Cwt.	113,462.0	127,275.0
Medium <u>e</u> /	820.0	758.0	Cwt.	69.26	<u>b</u> /	Cwt.	56,790.0	53,198.0
Short <u>e</u> /	15.0	20.0	Cwt.	71.27	<u>b</u> /	Cwt.	1,069.0	1,561.0
Cotton, Upland <u>c</u> /	12,612.2	13,160.5	Lbs.	701.00	628.00	Bales	18,413.5	17,228.5
Cotton, American-Pima <u>c</u> /	255.9	249.0	Lbs.	991.00	1,068.00	Bales	528.5	554.0
Sugar Beets	1,323.3	1,438.5	Tons	20.20	20.60	Tons	26,680.0	29,688.0
Beans, All Dry <u>d</u> /	1,717.7	1,750.1	Cwt.	15.92	16.66	Cwt.	27,354.0	29,163.0
Hay, All	61,029.0	60,807.0	Tons	2.45	2.53	Tons	149,457.0	153,886.0
Alfalfa Hay	24,291.0	23,556.0	Tons	3.27	3.30	Tons	79,377.0	77,817.0
Other Hay	36,738.0	37,251.0	Tons	1.91	2.04	Tons	70,080.0	76,069.0

a/ California estimate for current year carried forward from earlier forecast. b/ To be released January 1998. c/ Cotton yield in pounds; production in 480-pound net weight bales. d/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed. e/ Rice class production forecasts for 1997 are based on five-year average of class percentages.

**COTTON:** Upland cotton production in California is forecast at 2.20 million bales, 8 percent below last year. Harvested acreage is expected to total 875 thousand acres, 12 percent below last year. The yield is forecast at 1,207 pounds per acre, up 5 percent from 1996. American Pima cotton production is forecast at 450 thousand bales, 20 percent above last year's crop. The 184 thousand acres for harvest are 12 percent above last year. The Upland and Pima crops were nearly two weeks ahead of normal as of August 1.

U.S. production of all cotton is forecast at 17.8 million bales, down 6 percent from 1996. Acreage intended for harvest is 13.4 million, up 4 percent from last year. The yield is expected to average 637 pounds per acre, down 70 pounds from last year. American Pima production is forecast at 554 thousand bales, up 5 percent from 1996. Yields are expected to average 1,068 pounds per acre, up 77 pounds from last year.

**RICE:** California's 1997 rice crop forecast, at 42.1 million cwt., is 12 percent above 1996. The 513 thousand acres for harvest are 3 percent above last year. The yield is forecast at 8,200 pounds per acre, up 9 percent from last year.

U.S. rice production is forecast at 182 million cwt., an increase of 6 percent from 1996 and 5 percent above 1995's output. The yield per acre is forecast at 5,994 pounds, down 127 pounds from 1996's record level.

**HAY:** Production of alfalfa hay in California is forecast at 6.79 million tons, 3 percent above last year's crop. Other hay production is forecast at 1.51 million tons, 6 percent above last year.

The U.S. alfalfa hay production is forecast at 77.8 million tons, down 2 percent from a year ago and 8 percent below 1995. Total area to be cut, at 23.6 million acres, is down 3 percent from 1996. The yield per acre is expected to average 3.30 tons per acre. U.S. production of all other hay is expected to total 76.1 million tons, 9 percent above a year earlier.

**SUGAR BEETS:** California sugar beet production is forecast at 3.16 million tons, up 31 percent from the 1996 crop. Acreage for harvest, at 107 thousand, is up 30 percent, while yields are expected to be unchanged from last year.

Production for the U.S. is expected to total 29.7 million tons, an increase of 11 percent from 1996. Area for harvest is 1.44 million acres, up 6 percent from a year ago, while the average yield, at 20.6 tons per acre, is 0.4 tons above 1996.

**CORN:** California's 1997 corn for grain production is forecast at 1.24 million tons, 26 percent above last year. The forecast yield, at 4.76 tons per acre, is up 6 percent from last year.

U.S. corn production is forecast at 260 million tons, virtually unchanged from last year, but up 26 percent from 1995. Yields are expected to average 3.51 tons per acre. Acreage for harvest, at 74.0 million acres, is up 1 percent from 1996.

**DRY BEANS:** California's 1997 all dry bean production is forecast at 2.50 million cwt., 7 percent above the 1996 crop. The 125 thousand acres for harvest are 2 percent above last year. The forecast yield of 2,000 pounds per acre is 5 percent above the 1996 yield. Large lima planted acreage is estimated at 27.0 thousand, up 29 percent from last year. Baby lima acreage is expected to total 31.0 thousand, 29 percent above last year.

U.S. dry bean production for 1997 is forecast at 29.2 million cwt., up 7 percent from last year. Area for harvest, at 1.75 million acres, is 2 percent above a year ago. Yields are expected to average 1,666 pounds per acre, up 74 pounds from last year.

**DRY BEANS BY VARIETY:  
PLANTED ACRES, CALIFORNIA & U.S., 1996-97 <sup>1/</sup>**

Bean Variety	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- 1,000 Acres -----			
Large Lima	21.0	27.0	21.0	27.0
Baby Lima	24.0	31.0	24.0	31.0
Black eye	24.0	30.0	32.2	43.0
Light Red Kidney	10.0	10.0	66.1	86.7
Dark Red Kidney	5.0	5.0	63.3	60.1
Pink	8.0	5.0	30.9	41.0
Garbanzo	25.0	11.0	42.7	26.4
Small White <sup>2/</sup>	---	---	5.6	8.2
Navy <sup>2/</sup>	---	---	414.1	422.3
Great Northern <sup>2/</sup>	---	---	119.8	113.0
Cranberry	3.0	4.0	33.4	39.6
Small Red <sup>2/</sup>	---	---	20.7	43.5
Black Turtle Soup	1.0	---	89.1	138.3
Pinto <sup>2/</sup>	---	---	809.7	794.8
Other (Misc.)	7.0	7.0	40.4	38.7
<b>All DRY BEANS</b>	<b>128.0</b>	<b>130.0</b>	<b>1,813.0</b>	<b>1,913.6</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Production by variety will be released December 12, 1997.

<sup>2/</sup> Included in "Other (Misc.)" for California.

## PRICES RECEIVED BY CALIFORNIA FARMERS - JULY 1997

Prices received by California farmers at mid-July were above June for dry edible beans and Upland cotton lint. Wheat, barley, all types of potatoes, and all types of hay were below previous month levels. Prices were above a year earlier for dry edible beans, summer potatoes, and all types of hay. Prices for wheat, barley, all potatoes, spring potatoes, and Upland cotton lint were below July 1996 levels.

### U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DROPS 1 POINT

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in July was 107 based on 1990-92 = 100, down 1 point (0.9 percent) from June. Since June, price decreases for wheat, cantaloupes, corn, and hay more than offset price increases for broilers, lettuce, eggs, and celery. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. However, these changes were essentially offsetting in July.

Compared with July 1996, the All Farm Products Index was 12 points (10 percent) lower. Price decreases from July 1996 for corn, wheat, milk, and grain sorghum more than offset price increases for cattle, calves, lettuce, and hay.

The July all crops index was 114, down 4.2 percent from June and 16 percent below July 1996. From June, price decreases for food grains, feed grains and hay, and oilseeds more than offset price increases for potatoes and dry beans.

The July food grains index, at 109, was down 9.2 percent from the previous month and 31 percent below July 1996. The July all wheat price, at \$5.30 per cwt., was down 57 cents from June and \$2.58 below the July 1996 price.

The July feed grains & hay index was 113, down 5 percent from last month and 33 percent below July 1996. The corn price, at \$4.36 per cwt., was down 21 cents from June and \$3.55 below the July 1996 price. The all hay price, at \$98.40 per ton, was down \$9.60 from June.

The July potatoes and dry beans index, at 106, was up 13 percent from June, but 24 percent below July 1996. The July potato price, at \$6.01 per cwt., was up 78 cents from June, but \$2.08 per cwt. below July 1996.

### FARM PRICES: AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS <sup>a/</sup>

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		July 1996	June 1997	July 15, 1997	July 1996	June 1997	July 15, 1997
		----- Dollars -----					
Corn <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	7.91	4.57	4.36
Wheat <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	7.98	6.68	6.45	7.88	5.87	5.30
Oats <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	6.63	5.66	5.47
Barley <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	8.02	6.04	5.83	6.63	4.69	4.38
Sorghum Grain <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	6.61	4.10	3.94
Rice <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	9.81	9.88	10.10
Dry Edible Beans <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	36.30	38.70	39.10	26.80	21.70	22.60
All Potatoes <u>c/</u>	Cwt.	13.10	9.70	9.30	8.09	5.23	6.01
Winter	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	13.20	10.30	9.55	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	12.80	---	13.10	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	---	4.40	4.35	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled <u>b/</u>	Ton	98.00	123.00	117.00	89.40	108.00	98.40
Alfalfa Hay, Baled <u>b/</u>	Ton	100.00	125.00	118.00	92.90	115.00	106.00
Other Hay, Baled <u>b/</u>	Ton	78.00	100.00	98.00	75.50	79.40	72.40
Upland Cotton Lint <u>b/</u>	Lb.	0.800	0.738	0.752	0.736	0.668	0.681
Cottonseed	Ton	---	---	---	---	---	---

### INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, UNITED STATES

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	July 1996	June 1997	July 1997	July 1996	June 1997	July 1997
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	754	683 <sup>d/</sup>	678	119	108 <sup>d/</sup>	107
All Crops	673	586 <sup>d/</sup>	563	136	119 <sup>d/</sup>	114
Food Grains	504	382 <sup>d/</sup>	347	159	120 <sup>d/</sup>	109
Feed Grains and Hay	604	427	403	169	119	113
Cotton	622	565 <sup>d/</sup>	576	121	110 <sup>d/</sup>	112
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	705	475 <sup>d/</sup>	537	139	94 <sup>d/</sup>	106
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates <sup>e/</sup>	1,511	1,532 <sup>d/</sup>	1,528	115	117	117
Parity Ratio <sup>f/</sup>	50	45 <sup>d/</sup>	44	103	92 <sup>d/</sup>	91

<sup>a/</sup> The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers. They are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole. <sup>b/</sup> Previous month revised to monthly average. <sup>c/</sup> Monthly average. <sup>d/</sup> Revised. <sup>e/</sup> All production indexes as of 15th of month. <sup>f/</sup> Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

## FARM NUMBERS UP 2 PERCENT

In 1997 an estimated 84.0 thousand farms operated on 30.0 million acres in California. The average farm size is 357 acres. The number of farms was up 2 percent, and the land in farms was unchanged from last year.

farms is 968 million acres, also down fractionally from last year. This decline in farm numbers and land in farms continues to follow historical trends. The average U.S. farm size, at 470 acres, was unchanged from 1996. Estimates for the number of farms and land in farms refer to June 1.

The number of farms in the United States in 1997 is 2.06 million, down less than 1 percent from 1996. Total land in

**NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES, 1995-97 1/**

State and Item		1995	1996	1997 <u>2/</u>
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	No. of Farms	80,000	82,000	84,000
	Land in Farms (Acres)	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000
	Avg. Size of Farms (Acres)	375	366	357
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	No. of Farms	2,071,520	2,063,910	2,058,910
	Land in Farms (Acres)	972,253,000	970,048,000	968,338,000
	Avg. Size of Farms (Acres)	469	470	470

1/ A farm is a place that sells or normally would sell \$1,000 or more of agricultural products during the year.

2/ Preliminary.